



## Department for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

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Dear Colleague,

You may have read in the media today about GTR's offer to its staff as the company takes further steps towards introducing new on board roles on its services. The new roles will provide help to all passengers, including those with accessibility needs, and staff will be available on exactly the same trains as today.

To be clear, drivers have been operating train doors on a third of the UK rail network for almost 30 years and the safety regulators have continued to assure us that it is safe.

In an attempt to bring an end to months of industrial action, that's affecting thousands of passengers every day, GTR has made a very generous proposition today to its staff and the RMT. In addition to the comprehensive 8-point offer and previous assurances made to conductors in early August by the operator, GTR has made this new offer to the Trades Union of £2,000 to all conductors, to be paid once the dispute is settled and GTR's proposals are fully in place.

You will recall that GTR's original 8-point offer includes guarantees about:

- on-board jobs until the end of GTR's franchise in 2021
- no reduction in salary for the change of role
- above-inflation pay increases for the next two years, and
- guaranteed overtime
- no compulsory redundancies

The RMT has been set a deadline of midday on Thursday to agree a deal and call off a further 14 days of planned strike action. GTR has also asked the union to let conductors vote on the full offer, which would mean a new ballot to their members. The company will directly ask its staff to sign up to the new on board roles.

This is a very important step forward in bringing this long running dispute to an end. I would urge the RMT to give GTR staff, who are members of the Trades Union, the opportunity to accept this deal and end this unjustified action. This dispute needs to end now to give passengers more certainty in planning their lives.

Paul Maynard and I will keep you informed of progress.

W. L. Best  
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**RT HON CHRIS GRAYLING MP**  
**Secretary of State for Transport**